Privatisation of railway hospitals and health centres

751. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to privatise the medical services provided by the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether there has been great resentment amongst the railway employees and even the Unions and Associations have objected to privatisation of railway hospitals and health centres; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Aged rail bridges in Kerala

752. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to reconstruct any bridge which are hundred years old;

(b) if so, the number of such bridges in Kerala; and

(c) by when the construction/strengthening of such bridges is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Reconstruction of Railway bridges is undertaken on condition basis and not merely on basis of age.

East coast railway zone

753. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to make all the new Railway Zones operative during 2001-2002; and

(b) is so, the details of steps taken to operate the East Coast Railway zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Bhubaneshwar Railway Station

754. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on modernisation of Bhubaneshwar Railway station during the last three years;

(b) the details of the modernisation programmes undertaken in that State;

(c) whether Railway reservation system has been computerised on that Station;

(d) whether there are irregularities on getting reserved tickets despite computerisation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to stop such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Rs. 57.62 lakhs have been spent on modernisation of Bhubaneshwar railway station during the last three years.

(b) Railways do not maintain information of projects and expenditure State-wise. However, Rs. 11.14 crores during 1999-2000, Rs. 19.32 crores during 2000-2001 and Rs. 20.79 crores during 2001-02 were allotted for Passenger Amenity works for South Eastern Railway which include the State of Orissa.

(c) Computerised reservation facility is available at Bhubaneshwar Railway Station.

(d) No specific complaint has been received in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.